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OCCIDENTAL OBSERVER

White Identity, Interests, and Culture

Philip Giraldi on Jewish Power: The War Inside the Beltway

August 5, 2015 – [12 Comments](#)

[Kevin MacDonald](#)



Philip Giraldi has long been an excellent observer of the Israel Lobby and its power over the American political establishment. It strikes me that his latest column, "[The War Inside the Beltway](#)," breaks new ground for him with his comments on the wider context of Jewish power in America.

I was watching CBS morning news last Wednesday, the day after it was announced that convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard would be released from prison in November. The "real news," as the network describes it, recounted what Israeli officials had said about releasing Pollard, which was basically "all right, finally...but we still have to destroy Iran." You have to hand it to the Israelis, they certainly know how to accept a bribe completely ungraciously.

That straight from the heart advice from America's best friend and closest ally was followed almost immediately by an interview segment with former CIA Director James Woolsey. Woolsey obligingly informed the interviewer that Pollard had in fact not disclosed any classified information, completely contradicting the results of the Pentagon investigation that had been conducted after the fact. Woolsey is, for what it's worth, a fully owned [parasite](#) hovering in a regular neocon orbit who spoke at the recent "Stop Iran" rally in New York City. He has also claimed falsely that Israel does not spy on the United States. So why would anyone sane pick Woolsey to provide commentary instead of someone who actually knew what he was talking about? To mitigate the Israeli

role in spying on the U.S., of course. It had to be a deliberate decision.

Right. I forgot about Woolsey in my [article on cuckservatives](#) when I listed Randy Scheunemann, John Bolton and Frank Gaffney as cuckservatives who are part of the neocon foreign policy establishment. I am sure there are many others. [Fred Barnes](#) of the *Weekly Standard* and Fox News comes to mind. Again, the key to understanding Jewish power is that they are able to establish incredible infrastructure giving career opportunities for ambitious, unscrupulous non-Jews willing to promote Jewish interests at the expense of their own people. Giraldi's term 'parasite' is particularly apt given the cuckservative meme — the term 'cuckold' [derives](#) from the cuckoo birds' practice of parasitizing other species by getting them to rear its young. Woolsey et al. are willing cucks.

The link from 'parasite' goes a [2014 article](#) in *Counterpunch* by David Macary stating "it was reported that former CIA Director James Woolsey, forced to resign during the Clinton administration for his bungling of the Aldrich Ames affair, was going around telling people that the reason Jonathan Pollard, the notorious Israeli spy, was still in prison after 29 years is because the U.S. government is anti-Semitic. In short, Pollard remains in prison because he's a Jew." Woolsey is a cuckservative's cuckservative.

Make no mistake, the U.S. media and inside the beltway punditry boast about their professionalism and integrity but it all goes out the window when Israel is the topic. Many of those involved are themselves Jewish and identify as "strong Israel supporters" and for those who are not of the Tribe the understanding that criticism of Israel is a quick ticket out of town frequently prevails.

This is the flip side of Jewish power. There's the carrot and the stick. Whereas Woolsey et al. eagerly consume the carrots, everyone in Washington is also aware of the stick: Opposing Jewish interests is career death. And after you have have your 15 minutes of being in the spotlight for calling attention to Jewish power, you can look forward to a life on the outside looking in; and you'll probably have to sell your house and go on food stamps. This twisting oneself into knots to deny what is clearly visible has been never as evident as during the past two weeks with the launch of the hate Iran agenda to derail

President Barack Obama's negotiated agreement relating to that country's nuclear program. The public has been fed a steady diet of alarmist nonsense cranked out by journalists like Jennifer Rubin and Charles Krauthammer, depicting the Iranians as suicidal religious fanatics, liars and thieves, terrorists and, of course, Jew haters who also run around chanting "Death to America."

While non-Jews are confronted with stark choices between the carrot and the stick in thinking about whether to pursue Jewish interests or the interests of their people, Jews are able to freely and overtly pursue their ethnic interests. And they do so in the elite media — Jennifer Rubin in *The Washington Post*, and one can't turn on Fox News without seeing Charles Krauthammer expound on behalf of his favorite country. I emphasized Krauthammer's Jewish and Israeli identification in "[Neoconservatism as a Jewish Movement](#)" (pp 40-41):

Krauthammer is a Jew and his Jewish identification and pro-Israel motivation are typical of Jewish neoconservatives, as is his obeisance to the idea that America is a proposition nation, rather than a nation founded by a particular ethnic group—an ethnocultural creation of Western Europe that should attempt to preserve this heritage. The same attitude can be seen in Irving Kristol's comment that the U.S. is an "ideological nation" committed to defend Israel independent of national interest (see above). This ideology was the creation of leftist Jewish intellectuals attempting to rationalize a multicultural America in which European-Americans were just one of many cultural/ethnic groups.

Krauthammer is a regular columnist for the *Jerusalem Post* and has written extensively in support of hard-line policies in Israel and on what he interprets as a rise in age-old anti-Jewish attitudes in Europe. In 2002 Krauthammer was presented with Bar-Ilan University's annual Guardian of Zion Award at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. His acceptance speech reveals an observant Jew who is steeped in Jewish history and the Hebrew tradition. The 1993 Oslo Accords are termed "the most catastrophic and self-inflicted wound by any state in modern history"; this disastrous policy was based on "an extreme expression of postZionistic messianism." Krauthammer rejected the "secular messianism" of Shimon Peres as more dangerous than the religious messianism of Gush Emunim (a prominent settler group with a message of Jewish racialism and a vision of a "Greater Israel" encompassing the lands promised to Abraham in Genesis—from the Nile to the Euphrates) or of certain followers of the Lubavitcher Rebbe because of its impact on shaping contemporary Jewish history.

So we have the typical situation of Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity, the Fox News cuckservatives, featuring Charles Krauthammer, the Jewish/Israeli patriot. Back to Giraldi: The Republicans will block vote on the Iran deal to spite Obama but the process being engaged in by the Democrats who are sitting on the fence is far more excruciating to watch [JTA (8/4/2015): "[3 top Jewish Democrats oppose Iran deal](#)"]. They are being lobbied hard, sometimes directly by and [even in Israel](#): "Some members of Congress are going on trips to Israel, with some arranged by the American Israel Education Foundation, a charitable organization affiliated with AIPAC, a deal foe."

Again, the incredible Jewish ethnic infrastructure, just packed with carrots. And the stick always looms: If they

cross the Israel Lobby they can expect a very difficult reelection campaign with very well-funded opponents.

Most of the Congressmen being quoted in the media are Jewish and are openly stating their concern for Israel while the media is uncritically accepting that as a reasonable position. Rarely does the issue of any actual American interest come up. Nor is there much discussion of the reality in the Middle East, which is that a U.S. armed and funded Israel is the regional superpower, not Iran, and that if there is a nuclear threat locally it comes from Tel Aviv.

Jewish Congressmen are free to openly assert their ethnic interests, while non-Jews assiduously avoid talking about American interests. Perish the thought! The non-Jews are cuckolded, whether Democrat or Republican. The Jews are looking after their ethnic interests. They are not cuckolded.

The reality is that we owe the Israelis nothing and the constant process of bribing them and deferring to their alleged interests so they will behave is demeaning to us as a country and also self-defeating as they couldn't give a tinker's damn for the American people except insofar as it is possible to take our money and otherwise exploit us.

This is, implicitly at least, a charge that Jewish Congressmen are disloyal. Any impartial observer of the US-Israel relationship over the last 50 years would have to agree that the US derives no benefit from its subservience to Israel while it pays a huge cost — a theme, for example of Mearsheimer and Walt's [The Israel Lobby](#). Could one possibly argue that Jewish Congressmen are honestly pursuing American interests when they promote the interests of the Jewish ethnostate, especially when American interests have been removed from the discussion because of the power of the Israel Lobby?

Giraldi then launches into a wide-ranging survey of Jewish power, noting Jewish power in the media, but focusing especially on Jewish power over the political process.

To be sure, Israel benefits enormously from its powerful fifth column inside the United States and there is already far too much deference by the federal government to what are manifestly Jewish issues. Though only 2% of the population, American Jews nevertheless wield enormous economic and political power which understandably translates into media access and influence over policies. That would be a given for how representational politics actually work under capitalism but there is something disturbing about how this plays out in practice. The Obama Administration has an [Associate Director for Jewish Outreach](#) in the White House Office of Public Engagement named Matt Nosanchuk but there is no designated outreach director to the nation's 77 million Catholics. President Obama meets repeatedly with Jewish leaders, many of whom are hostile to his policies, but I have yet to read about him meeting with groups of Catholics or mainline Protestants. Many of them might well be supportive of what Obama is doing but there is no "outreach" office for them and no attempt to obtain their adherence to proposed programs. The federal bureaucracy has for many years included numerous American Jews in the upper level positions relating to national security, Middle East policy and counter-terrorism. Most are responsible individuals who are serious about their commitment to impartial government service. But some are not so scrupulous.

Dennis Ross, former Middle East negotiator, is not called "[Israel's lawyer](#)" as a compliment. And there were also Douglas Feith, Richard Perle, Paul Wolfowitz and Scooter Libby, all of whom were actively engaged in bringing about the disastrous invasion of Iraq, intended in part to benefit Israel.

And then there are the neoconservatives to include the State Department's [Victoria Nuland](#) [see also [here](#)] who somewhat inexplicably are advanced in their careers by Democrats as well as Republicans while having strong ties to Israel and its leaders. Does their religion or perceived ethnicity matter? It certainly does for those of them who, like the Jewish Congressmen unable to decide how to vote, cannot compartmentalize their own personal baggage when participating in the crafting of U.S. foreign policy.

Washington inexplicably gives a wealthy and militarily powerful Israel \$3 billion annually for defense spending, a sum that it now wants to raise to nearly \$5 billion as a bribe for good behavior, which will not in any event be forthcoming. Meanwhile, within the federal government there exist special bureaucracies and benefits that are little known to the public, created in response to narrowly construed Jewish interests. Apparently [successful efforts](#) made by Congresswomen Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Debbie Wasserman-Schultz to fund [special health care benefits](#) for Holocaust survivors constitute little more than a bid to create a two tiered system that provides extra financial support for a favored group. As near as I could determine, any European Jew who was not killed during the Second World War is considered a "Holocaust survivor." Every American who has diligently paid into the Medicare trust fund should find the proposal for special benefits based on religion offensive in the extreme.

Washington's Holocaust Museum, undeniably a political statement vis-à-vis Israel, was built using private contributions but the taxpayer covers its [operating costs](#), \$52 million in 2014, making it the most expensive museum in Washington. The State Department has a [Special Adviser to the Secretary on Holocaust Issues](#) as well as a [Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues](#). The two offices are headed respectively by Stuart Eizenstat and Nicholas Dean. There is also a [Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism](#), a position held by Ira Forman, a former American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Political Director.

All three are senior Foreign Service Ambassador level positions with full staffs, first class travel expenses and additional funding. Foreign Service Executive Schedules top out at \$203,700 plus benefits which is presumably what the trio are being paid. Eizenstat, who reports to Victoria Nuland, has had a particularly long career as a Holocaust specialist having served as Deputy Secretary of the Treasury and as Bill Clinton's Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State on Holocaust Era Issues.

As the Second World War ended seventy years ago and took place in Europe, not the United States, when does it become time for the rest of us to say "enough" regarding the Holocaust and its consequences? And why are contemporary genocides in Africa not worthy of a "Special Adviser?" And then there is combatting anti-Semitism. The increase in anti-Semitism in many

countries is directly linked to actions undertaken by the Israeli government, which could itself be reasonably described as anti-Christian and anti-Muslim. Is Ambassador Forman going to address any of that? His [most recent fact finding trip](#) was to Sweden and Denmark in March where he met with "Jewish leaders."

As often noted at *TOO*, Jewish power extends far beyond issues directly related to Israel, and it is gratifying to see others call attention to this. Although Giraldi is correct when he points out later in his article that surveys indicate that most American Jews favor the Iran deal, it is important to note that the wider Jewish community has also vigorously pursued its ethnic interests in other areas of policy in which there is far more of a Jewish consensus than the Iran deal: the entire program of immigration, multiculturalism, and the dispossession of White America. Positive attitudes toward immigration and America as a proposition nation with no ethnic connotations (noted above with respect to Charles Krauthammer) span the Jewish political spectrum even as American Jews vigorously cling to the idea that Israel must remain a Jewish state. These attitudes range from the numerically dominant left to the neoconservative right which, despite its relative minority status among American Jews has managed to dominate US-Israel policy.

Moreover, as also emphasized at *TOO*, Jewish power in the areas promoted by the left stems from the same basic institutional infrastructure that makes the Israel Lobby so powerful — [vast media influence](#) resulting from Jewish ownership of media and as providers of content, intellectual influences in the academic world, as well as political influence deriving from their ability to create a powerful infrastructure that [incentivizes](#) the anti-White revolution, the latter ultimately enabled by Jewish wealth. All these aspects of Jewish power were on display in the [long Jewish battle](#) to alter US immigration policy away from an ethnic status quo favoring Western Europe to a policy which will make Europeans a minority with a few years.

While it's gratifying to note that many are waking up to the reality of Jewish power in the US and throughout the West, we are clearly a long way from really making a dent in that power. The Iran treaty situation is unique in that there is a president put into office as "[the first Jewish president](#)" who is the [darling of the Jewish left](#) because he is a harbinger of the much-longed-for non-White America. Obama, as an honest leftist, has pursued policies on Israel and Iran that are a breath of fresh air, but the rest of his policies are anathema to White interests; he is a hint of the political future of the US with its emergent non-White majority. The Lobby may well fail in the effort to derail the Iran deal but may well have a resurgence of power after the 2016 election. In any case, whatever the outcome of the Iran deal in Congress, it will do nothing to dislodge the forces that are dispossessing White America.

12 Comments to "Philip Giraldi on Jewish Power: The War Inside the Beltway"

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Letter to Ms.Thompson and Mr.Goode from David Merlin

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Jul 30 at 1:19 PM

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Hello Ms. Thompson and Mr. Goode-

I read that your company is handling international sales for a new movie based on Deborah Lipstadt's book *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier*. The movie is "**Denial**" and Cornerstone Films has promoted the movie at the Cannes Film Festival as "a powerful story about the legal and personal battle Deborah Lipstadt fought to defend the veracity of historical facts." *History on Trial* is Lipstadt's account of her long vendetta with author David Irving, culminating in a defamation action tried in a London court in 2000 before Judge Charles Gray. Irving sued Lipstadt and Penguin Books, the publisher of Lipstadt's earlier book, [Denying the Holocaust: the Growing Assault on Truth and Memory](#). I am writing a two part letter to comment on *History on Trial* prior to the release of the movie. The first letter is a general analysis of the book. The second letter is a discussion of some of the many historical issues raised at the Trial.

A Latter- Day Heroine of Truly Biblical Proportions

While enthusiastic promotion is common on book covers, *History on Trial* hits new heights; favorable comments run off the cover and fill several pages of the book. We are told in Martin Gilbert's paeon, "A London courtroom was the scene of a titanic struggle between the forces of historical distortion and those who upheld the truth..." and, from the Australian Jewish News, "Like her namesake from the book of Judges, Lipstadt can rightly be considered a latter-day Jewish heroine of truly biblical proportions..." It is informative to compare what is written in *History on Trial* with the Trial transcript, the Judgment, and other facts about the case.

Undisputed Defamation

A point, barely mentioned in the book, is that Lipstadt was found by Judge Gray to have actually defamed Irving. In his massive 333 page Ruling, Gray wrote, *The Defendants made no attempt to prove the truth of Lipstadt's claim that Irving was scheduled to speak at an anti-Zionist conference in Sweden in 1992, which was also to be attended by various representatives of terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas. Nor did they seek to justify Lipstadt's claim that Irving has a self-portrait by Hitler hanging over his desk. Furthermore the Defendants have, as I have held, failed in their attempt to justify the defamatory imputations made against Irving in relation to the Goebbels diaries in the Moscow archive. If Irving had stuck to these clear defamations by Lipstadt and had not gone off on his*

classification as a "Denier," he would have won his case.

The Judgment can be read at

<http://www.nizkor.org/hweb/people/i/irving-david/judgment-00-00.html>

The praise that Judge Gray had for Irving as a military historian and, importantly, his rejection of the opinion of defendants' expert, Richard Evans, underscores the idea that Irving would have prevailed in a "normal" trial.

*My assessment is that, as a military historian, Irving has much to commend him. For his works of military history Irving has undertaken thorough and painstaking research into the archives. He has discovered and disclosed to historians and others many documents which, but for his efforts, might have remained unnoticed for years. **It was plain from the way in which he conducted his case and dealt with a sustained and penetrating cross-examination that his knowledge of World War 2 is unparalleled. His mastery of the detail of the historical documents is remarkable. He is beyond question able and intelligent. He was invariably quick to spot the significance of documents which he had not previously seen.** Moreover he writes his military history in a clear and vivid style. I accept the favorable assessment by Professor Watt and Sir John Keegan of the calibre of Irving's military history and reject as too sweeping the negative assessment of Evans.* [emphasis added]

Why Abandon a Winning Case?

How Irving came to be arguing various esoteric facts about Auschwitz was a strange turn of legal events.

Irving opened the case telling the court, "I have never held myself out to be a Holocaust expert, nor have I written books about what is now called the Holocaust." On her part Lipstadt told an interviewer shortly after the Trial, 'I wasn't proving how many people were murdered at Auschwitz. But when they say only 68,000 people were killed — it didn't happen. We weren't proving how many people were killed...' And Judge Gray specifically stated, "It is no part of my function to attempt to make findings as to what actually happened during the Nazi regime." Why did Irving, Lipstadt and Judge Gray all end-up trying facts they said they were not concerned with?

Out Gunned and Outflanked

A striking fact about the *Irving v. Penguin, et al.* was the vast disparity in economic resources between the parties. The Trial was not a "titanic struggle" but a *David vs. Goliath* affair, with David Irving in the role of David and Penguin Books as Goliath. The disparity showed itself in the legal team each side marshaled. Lipstadt hired British lawyer **Anthony Julius** while Penguin hired libel experts **Kevin Bays** and **Mark Bateman** of media law firm Davenport Lyons. Together they briefed the barrister, **Richard Rampton**. Penguin also retained **Heather Rogers** as junior barrister. Lipstadt also engaged the firm of **Mishcon de Rey**. A veritable phalanx of solicitors, legal talent, staff, and barristers represented the defendants. Irving, on the other hand, was unable to

retain either counsel nor barrister. He would show up at court alone and with his papers carried in a plastic shopping bag.

The importance of competent legal representation in complex litigation is hard to overstate. Lipstadt herself repeatedly claims she was confused or didn't understand what was going on in the courtroom even after explanations by her legal team. While Irving was far more competent than Lipstadt, he lacked a strategic perspective. Defendants' legal team realized that Irving's weaknesses lay with his various flamboyant statements about the Holocaust and made them the main issue of the Trial. They adroitly steered the case away from the the original defamation of hobnobbing with terrorists and decorating an office with portraits of Hitler and toward the thorny question of whether Irving was a "Holocaust Denier." Irving naively followed along. One wonders how an English historian like Irving could have made this kind of mistake. Not only did the defamation case of Wilde v. Queensberry serve as a cautionary light but so too did the contemporary case of Aitken v. Preston and Others. Under English law, a plaintiff in a defamation case needs to be quite sure of a spotless record before he makes his reputation a matter of litigation. This is particularly true when the alleged defamation concerns criminal conduct. Jonathan Aitken ended up in prison a result of his suit against the Guardian newspaper as issues relating to corruption evolved into questions of perjury and obstruction of justice. Oscar Wilde's indignation at being called a "posing sodomite" morphed into a criminal conviction for gross indecency. Judge Gray's ruling that Irving was, in fact, a "Holocaust Denier" cleared the way for Irving's criminal prosecution for being a Holocaust Denier five years later in Austria.

Specialist witnesses do not come cheap.

As the case expanded into a wide ranging question of Irving's competence as a historian the power of a large purse was shown in the purchase of expert testimony. The defense spared no expense. Richard J. Evans was hired to justify, ex post facto, Lipstadt's comment that Irving, "falsified history." Evans and his team spent two years examining Irving's lifework in painful detail and presented a 740-page report for the defense. He came up with 19 possible errors, as discussed below. An additional sum of over £400,000 was paid to 13 other witnesses who were brought into court, one after the other, to joust with Irving. The expense was so large that The London Times took note and printed an article entitled "*Specialist witnesses do not come cheap*," mentioning the huge costs of "expert witnesses" in the case. The Australian Jewish News must envision *latter-day Biblical heroines* as accompanied by their own legal department, PR spokesmen, and troupe of spin doctors.

You Are Our Witness

Lipstadt fills her book with self-praise as lavish as that on the cover. Her favorite gambit is to recount being approached by a stranger who thanks her and often blesses her. After a tourist trip to East Jerusalem in 1967, she claims the border guards tell each other, "She's got guts." In Russia in 1972 old Jewish women kiss her hand. Of course, there is the mandatory "Survivor" who approaches Lipstadt during the Trial, "*You are fighting for us. You are our witness.*"

This is ironic since Lipsadt never was a witness at the Trial. She never gave a

statement to the press. While the the promotional material for the movie claims that Lipstadt was engaged in a *personal battle* to defend the veracity of historical facts she never took advantage of the opportunity to face David Irving in the courtroom. Instead Lipstadt relied on her phalanx of attorneys and experts to defend her prior comments on Irving. By her own account, Lipstadt was remarkably passive throughout the Trial; often not understanding what was going in the court or "blindsided" by her attorney's actions. She contributed nothing to the defense. She even seems confused about the number of "recreated" gas chambers at Auschwitz and the location of structural features in buildings.

High School Diary

Instead, *History on Trial* is filled with a detailed, blow by blow, in-depth, comprehensive recounting of her emotional state during the Trial; how she "*almost fell out of her chair*" at some remark Irving made, how some other comment of Irving's "*left me reeling*," or how a favorable remark to Irving by Judge Gray sent her into a spasm of worry. She giggles at cartoons of Irving drawn by her attorneys. She augments her emotional drama with personal comments: Flattering for her friends and nasty for Irving and his supporters. *Her* friends hold spirited discussions about Rachel Carson and J.D. Salinger, drink 1995 Pommard or 1992 Clos de La Roche and play classical music on the piano perfectly. Their offices have "the familiar chaos of a creative mind at work." They are "*easygoing, kind, unpretentious...but can be tough*." *Her* friends look like "young professors" or "graduate students." On the other hand, David Irving is noted to have, "***rough features...a rather blotchy complexion and unbelievably large hands.***" Dealing with Irving is compared to stepping into shit. A female supporter of Irving's is noted as having a "bouffant hairdo" and given the name "*Brunhilda*." An attorney who represented Irving (on his appeal) is described as having "***a round, very white, soft pudgy face, a thick neck, and as I soon discovered, a high-pitched nasal voice.***" Even two prominent British historians who publicly defended Irving as a historian are trashed. With breathless indignation, *History on Trial's* Introduction demands,

"How can we explain the reaction of Watt and Keegan?

Was it fostered by resentment of an outsider, someone who was not member of the club, Jewish, a women? Whatever informed their perverse response, it was a chilling specter at the table of justice."

Deeply Troubled

This paranoid critical streak runs through-out the book. She is upset that Christians got to go in and out of Mandelbaum Gate to visit Bethlehem on Christmas Day while Jews could not. She goes to the British Museum just to see the Assyrian exhibit because, "***Once the Assyrians tried to destroy the Jewish people. Today their remnant is in museums.***" Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice* offends her and she admits that she is "***deeply troubled by intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews.***" Ironically, Lipstadt writes that she is "intrigued by what scholars called the 'paranoid style in American politics,' ***an American susceptibility to all sorts of conspiracy theories, particularly those that fostered prejudice and antisemitism.***" Paranoid politics fills her blog: the Arab

headdress (the kaffiah) has **"become a symbol of international terrorism."** There are stories of violence against women perpetrated by Muslims, general anti-Muslim comments, and attacks on Jimmy Carter for **"dwell[ing] on the Palestinian refugee experience:"** She quotes the smear, **"But the clearest endorsement of terror as a legitimate instrument of political bargaining came from former President Jimmy Carter."**

A Tour de Force

In contrast to the do-nothing Lipstadt, the Trial was very much a personal battle for Irving. He was, along with being his own legal counsel, his own barrister, his own expert on a vast array of historical material, and his own PR person, and witnesses in the trial. Day after day, for 31 days, he personally defended his case. It was an impressive tour de force.

How Are Sales?

I have to wonder why anyone would put money into a movie based on Lipstadt's book.

The only dramatic character is Irving; brilliant, arrogant, obnoxious, muttering anti-semitic and racist things, and he loses his case. He is an old lion at bay. Lipstadt comes across as paranoid, obsessed with Jewish identity, her own minute-by-minute emotions, and not particularly honest with the facts. I have to wonder how much *Denier* is going to cost and if anyone is taking up Cornerstone Films' attempts to market the film.

Yours for honesty in history,

David Merlin

Committee for an Open Debate on the Holocaust

[The second letter will be on some of the specific historical questions addressed at the Trial]

<http://codohfounder.com/letter-to-ms-thompson-and-mr-goode-from-david-merlin/>



Assange:

The Untold Story of an Epic Struggle for Justice360°ANALYSIS

By [John Pilger](#), August 5, 2015

As August 20 approaches, another chapter in the Julian Assange case is set to unfold. John Pilger explains.

Author's Note: This is an updated version of John Pilger's 2014 [investigation](#), which tells the unreported story of an unrelenting campaign to deny Julian Assange justice and silence WikiLeaks—a campaign now reaching a dangerous stage.

The siege of Knightsbridge is both an emblem of gross injustice and a grueling farce. For three years, a police cordon around the Ecuadorean Embassy in London has served no purpose other than to flaunt the power of the state. It has cost £12 million. The quarry is an Australian charged with no crime, a refugee whose only security is the room given to him by a brave South American country. His "crime" is to have initiated a wave of truth-telling in an era of lies, cynicism and war.

The persecution of [Julian Assange](#) is about to flare again as it enters a dangerous stage. From August 20, three-quarters of the Swedish prosecutor's case against Assange regarding sexual misconduct in 2010 will

disappear as the statute of limitations expires. At the same time, Washington's obsession with Assange and WikiLeaks has intensified. Indeed, it is vindictive American power that offers the greatest threat—as Chelsea Manning and those still held in [Guantanamo Bay](#) can attest.

The Americans are pursuing Assange because WikiLeaks exposed their epic crimes in [Afghanistan](#) and [Iraq](#): the wholesale killing of tens of thousands of civilians, which they covered up, and their contempt for sovereignty and international law, as demonstrated vividly in their leaked diplomatic cables. WikiLeaks continues to expose criminal activity by the United States, having just published top secret US intercepts—American spies' reports detailing private phone calls of French presidents and German chancellors and other senior officials, relating to internal European political and economic affairs.

None of this is illegal under the US Constitution. As a presidential candidate in 2008, [Barack Obama](#), a professor of constitutional law, lauded whistleblowers as "part of a healthy democracy [and they] must be protected from reprisal." In 2012, the campaign to re-elect President Barack Obama boasted on its website that he had prosecuted more whistleblowers in his first term than all other US presidents combined. Before Chelsea

Manning had even received a trial, Obama had pronounced the whistleblower guilty. Manning was subsequently sentenced to 35 years in prison, having been tortured during his long pre-trial detention.

"Pretrial Punishment": Julian Assange Remains in Ecuadorean Embassy Fearing Arrest If He Leaves The Prosecutor

Few doubt that should the US get their hands on Assange, a similar fate awaits him. Threats of the capture and assassination of Assange became the currency of the political extremes in the US following Vice-President Joe Biden's preposterous slur that the WikiLeaks founder was a "cyber-terrorist." Those doubting the degree of ruthlessness Assange can expect should remember the forcing down of the Bolivian president's plane in 2013—wrongly believed to be carrying [Edward Snowden](#).

According to documents released by Snowden, Assange is on a "Manhunt target list." Washington's bid to get him, say Australian diplomatic cables, is "unprecedented in scale and nature." In Alexandria, Virginia, a secret grand jury has spent five years attempting to contrive a crime for which Assange can be prosecuted. This is not easy. The First Amendment to the US Constitution protects publishers, journalists and whistleblowers.

Faced with this constitutional hurdle, the US Justice Department has contrived charges of "espionage," "conspiracy to commit espionage," "conversion" (theft of government property), "computer fraud and abuse" (computer hacking) and general "conspiracy." The Espionage Act has life in prison and death penalty provisions.

Assange's ability to defend himself in this Kafkaesque world has been handicapped by the US declaring his case a state secret. In March, a federal court in Washington blocked the release of all information about the "national security" investigation against WikiLeaks, because it was "active and ongoing" and would harm the "pending prosecution" of Assange. The judge, Barbara J. Rothstein, said it was necessary to show "appropriate deference to the executive in matters of national security." Such is the "justice" of a kangaroo court.

The supporting act in this grim farce is Sweden, played by the Swedish prosecutor Marianne Ny. Until recently, Ny refused to comply with a routine European procedure that required her to travel to London to question Assange and so advance the case. For four and a half years, Ny has never properly explained why she has refused to visit London, just as Swedish authorities have never explained why they refuse to give Assange a guarantee that they will not extradite him to the US under a secret arrangement agreed between Stockholm and Washington. In December 2010, *The Independent* revealed that the two governments had discussed his onward extradition to the US.

Contrary to its 1960s reputation as a liberal bastion, Sweden has drawn so close to Washington that it has allowed secret "renditions" by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), including the illegal deportation of refugees. The rendition and subsequent torture of two Egyptian political refugees in 2001 was condemned by the United Nations Committee Against Torture, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch; the complicity and duplicity of the Swedish state are documented in successful civil litigation and in WikiLeaks cables. In summer 2010, Assange had flown to Sweden to talk

about WikiLeaks revelations of the Afghanistan War—in which Sweden had forces under US command.



"Documents released by WikiLeaks since Assange moved to England," wrote Al Burke, editor of the online Nordic News Network, an authority on the multiple twists and dangers facing Assange, "clearly indicate that Sweden has consistently submitted to pressure from the United States in matters relating to civil rights. There is every reason for concern that if Assange were to be taken into custody by Swedish authorities, he could be turned over to the United States without due consideration of his legal rights."

Why hasn't the Swedish prosecutor resolved the Assange case? Many in the legal community in Sweden believe her behavior inexplicable. Once implacably hostile to Assange, the Swedish press has published headlines such as: "Go to London, for God's sake."

Why hasn't she? More to the point, why won't she allow the Swedish court access to hundreds of SMS messages that the police extracted from the phone of one of the two women involved in the misconduct allegations? Why won't she hand them over to Assange's Swedish lawyers? Ny says she is not legally required to do so until a formal charge is laid and she has questioned him. Then, why doesn't she question him? And if she did question him, the conditions she would demand of him and his lawyers—that they could not challenge her—would make injustice a near certainty.

On a point of law, the Swedish Supreme Court has decided Ny can continue to obstruct on the vital issue of the SMS messages. This will now go to the European Court of Human Rights. What Ny fears is that the SMS messages will destroy her case against Assange. One of the messages makes clear that one of the women did not want any charges brought against Assange, "but the police were keen on getting a hold on him." She was "shocked" when they arrested him because she only "wanted him to take [an HIV] test." She "did not want to accuse JA [Julian Assange] of anything" and "it was the police who made up the charges." (In a witness statement, she is quoted as saying that she had been "railroaded by police and others around her.")

The Case

Neither woman claimed she had been raped. Indeed, both have denied they were raped and one of them has since tweeted, "I have not been raped." That they were manipulated by police and their wishes ignored is evident—whatever their lawyers might say now. Certainly, they are victims of a saga that blights the reputation of Sweden itself.

For Assange, his only trial has been trial by media. On August 20, 2010, Swedish police opened a "rape investigation" and immediately—and unlawfully—told the Stockholm tabloids that there was a warrant for Assange's arrest for the "rape of two women." This was the news that went round the world.

In Washington, a smiling US Defense Secretary Robert Gates told reporters that the arrest "sounds like good news to me." Twitter accounts associated with the Pentagon described Assange as a "rapist" and a "fugitive."



© Shutterstock

Less than 24 hours later, the Stockholm chief prosecutor, Eva Finne, took over the investigation. She wasted no time in cancelling the arrest warrant, saying, "I don't believe there is any reason to suspect that he has committed rape." Four days later, she dismissed the rape investigation altogether, saying, "There is no suspicion of any crime whatsoever." The file was closed.

Enter Claes Borgstrom, a high profile politician in the Social Democratic Party, then standing as a candidate in Sweden's imminent general election. Within days of the chief prosecutor's dismissal of the case, Borgstrom, a lawyer, announced to the media that he was representing the two women and had sought a different prosecutor in the city of Gothenberg. This was Marianne Ny, whom Borgstrom knew well, personally and politically.

On August 30, Assange attended a police station in Stockholm voluntarily and answered all the questions put to him. He understood that was the end of the matter. Two days later, Ny announced she was re-opening the case. Borgstrom was asked by a Swedish reporter why the case was proceeding when it had already been dismissed, citing one of the women as saying she had not been raped. He replied, "Ah, but she is not a lawyer." Assange's Australian barrister, James Catlin, responded, "This is a laughing stock ... it's as if they make it up as they go along."

On the day Ny reactivated the case, the head of Sweden's military intelligence service—which has the acronym MUST—publicly denounced WikiLeaks in an article entitled "WikiLeaks [is] a threat to our soldiers." Assange was warned that the Swedish intelligence service, SAPO, had been told by its US counterparts that US-Sweden intelligence-sharing arrangements would be "cut off" if Sweden sheltered him.

For five weeks, Assange waited in Sweden for the new investigation to take its course. *The Guardian* was then on the brink of publishing the Iraq "War Logs," based on WikiLeaks' disclosures, which Assange was to oversee. His lawyer in Stockholm asked Ny if she had any objection to his leaving the country. She said he was free to leave.

Inexplicably, as soon as he left Sweden—at the height of media and public interest in the WikiLeaks disclosures—Ny issued a European Arrest Warrant and an Interpol "red alert," which is normally used for terrorists and dangerous criminals. Put out in five languages around the world, it ensured a media frenzy.

Assange attended a police station in London, was arrested and spent ten days in Wandsworth Prison, in solitary confinement. Released on £340,000 bail, he was electronically tagged, required to report to police daily and placed under virtual house arrest while his case began its long journey to the Supreme Court. He still had not been charged with any offence. His lawyers repeated his offer to be questioned by Ny in London, pointing out that she had given him permission to leave Sweden. They suggested a special facility at Scotland Yard commonly used for that purpose. She refused.

Katrin Axelsson and Lisa Longstaff of Women Against Rape wrote:

"The allegations against [Assange] are a smokescreen behind which a number of governments are trying to clamp down on WikiLeaks for having audaciously revealed to the public their secret planning of wars and occupations with their attendant rape, murder and destruction ... The authorities care so little about violence against women that they manipulate rape allegations at will. [Assange] has made it clear he is available for questioning by the Swedish authorities, in Britain or via Skype. Why are they refusing this essential step in their investigation? What are they afraid of?"

This question remained unanswered as Ny deployed the European Arrest Warrant (EAW), a draconian and now discredited product of the "War on Terror" supposedly designed to catch terrorists and organized criminals. The EAW had abolished the obligation on a petitioning state to provide any evidence of a crime. More than a thousand EAWs are issued each month; only a few have anything to do with potential "terror" charges. Most are issued for trivial offences, such as overdue bank charges and fines. Many of those extradited face months in prison without charge. There have been a number of shocking miscarriages of justice, of which British judges have been highly critical.



UK Courts

The Assange case finally reached the UK Supreme Court in May 2012. In a judgment that upheld the EAW—whose rigid demands had left the courts almost no room for maneuver—the judges found that European prosecutors could issue extradition warrants in Britain without any judicial oversight, even though Parliament intended otherwise. They made clear that Parliament had been "misled" by the Blair government. The court was split, 5-2, and consequently found against Assange.

However, the chief justice, Lord Phillips, made one mistake. He applied the Vienna Convention on treaty interpretation, allowing for state practice to override the letter of the law. As Assange's barrister, Dinah Rose QC, pointed out, this did not apply to the EAW.

The Supreme Court only recognized this crucial error when it dealt with another appeal against the EAW in November 2013. The Assange decision had been wrong, but it was too late to go back. With extradition imminent, the Swedish prosecutor told Assange's lawyers that, once in Sweden, he would be immediately placed in one of Sweden's infamous remand prisons.

Assange's choice was stark: extradition to a country that had refused to say whether or not it would send him on to the US, or to seek what seemed his last opportunity for refuge and safety. Supported by most of Latin America, the courageous government of Ecuador granted him refugee status on the basis of documented evidence and legal advice that he faced the prospect of cruel and unusual punishment in the US; that this threat violated his basic human rights; and that his own government in Australia had abandoned him and colluded with Washington. The Labor government of Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard had even threatened to take away his passport.

Gareth Peirce, the renowned human rights lawyer who represents Assange in London, wrote to then-Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd:

"Given the extent of the public discussion, frequently on the basis of entirely false assumptions ... it is very hard to attempt to preserve for him any presumption of innocence. Mr. Assange has now hanging over him not one but two Damocles swords, of potential extradition to two different jurisdictions in turn for two different alleged crimes, neither of which are crimes in his own country, and that his personal safety has become at risk in circumstances that are highly politically charged."

It was not until she contacted the Australian High Commission in London that Peirce received a response, which answered none of the pressing points she raised. In a meeting this author attended with her, the Australian Consul-General, Ken Pascoe, made the astonishing claim that he knew "only what I read in the newspapers" about the details of the case.

Meanwhile, the prospect of a grotesque miscarriage of justice was drowned in a vituperative campaign against the WikiLeaks founder. Deeply personal, petty, vicious and inhuman attacks were aimed at a man not charged with any crime, yet subjected to treatment not even meted out to a defendant facing extradition on a charge of murdering his wife. That the US threat to Assange was a threat to all journalists, to freedom of speech, was lost in the sordid and the ambitious.

Books were published, movie deals struck and media careers launched or kick-started on the back of WikiLeaks and an assumption that attacking Assange was fair game and he was too poor to sue. People have made money, often big money, while WikiLeaks has struggled to survive. The editor of *The Guardian*, Alan Rusbridger, called the WikiLeaks disclosures, which his newspaper published, "one of the greatest journalistic scoops of the last 30 years." It became part of his marketing plan to raise the newspaper's cover price.

With not a penny going to Assange or to WikiLeaks, a hyped *Guardian* book led to a lucrative Hollywood movie. The book's authors, Luke Harding and David Leigh, gratuitously described Assange as a "damaged

personality" and "callous." They also revealed the secret password he had given the paper in confidence, which was designed to protect a digital file containing the US embassy cables. With Assange now trapped in the Ecuadorean Embassy, Harding, standing among the police outside, gloated on his blog that "Scotland Yard may get the last laugh."

The injustice meted out to Assange is one of the reasons the British Parliament reformed the Extradition Act to prevent the misuse of the EAW. The draconian catch-all used against him could not happen now; charges would have to be brought and "questioning" would be insufficient grounds for extradition. "His case has been won lock, stock and barrel," Gareth Peirce told this author. "these changes in the law mean that the UK now recognizes as correct everything that was argued in his case. Yet he does not benefit." In other words, the change in British law in 2014 mean that Assange would have won his case and he would not have been forced to take refuge.

One Room

Ecuador's decision to protect Assange in 2012 bloomed into a major international affair. Even though the granting of asylum is a humanitarian act, and the power to do so is enjoyed by all states under international law, both Sweden and the United Kingdom refused to recognize the legitimacy of Ecuador's decision. Ignoring international law, the Cameron government refused to grant Assange safe passage to Ecuador. Instead, Ecuador's embassy was placed under siege and its government abused with a series of ultimatums. When William Hague's Foreign Office threatened to violate the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, warning that it would remove the diplomatic inviolability of the embassy and send the police in to get Assange, outrage across the world forced the government to back down. During one night, police appeared at the windows of the embassy in an obvious attempt to intimidate Assange and his protectors.

Since then, Julian Assange has been confined to a small room under Ecuador's protection, without sunlight or space to exercise, surrounded by police under orders to arrest him on sight. For three years, Ecuador has made clear to the Swedish prosecutor that Assange is available to be questioned in the London embassy, and for three years Marianne Ny has remained intransigent. In the same period, Sweden has questioned 44 people in the UK in connection with police investigations. Her role, and that of the Swedish state, is demonstrably political; and for Ny, facing retirement in two years, she must "win."

In despair, Assange has challenged the arrest warrant in the Swedish courts. His lawyers have cited rulings by the European Court of Human Rights that he has been under arbitrary, indefinite detention, and that he had been a virtual prisoner for longer than any actual prison sentence he might face. The Court of Appeal judge agreed with Assange's lawyers: The prosecutor had indeed breached her duty by keeping the case suspended for years. Another judge issued a rebuke to the prosecutor. And yet she defied the court.

Last December, Assange took his case to the Swedish Supreme Court, which ordered Marianne Ny's boss—the Prosecutor General of Sweden Anders Perklev—to explain. The next day, Ny announced, without explanation, that she had changed her mind and would now question Assange in London.

In his submission to the Supreme Court, the prosecutor general made some important concessions: He argued that the coercion of Assange had been "intrusive" and that that the period in the embassy has been a "great strain" on him. He even conceded that if the matter had ever come to prosecution, trial, conviction and serving a sentence in Sweden, Julian Assange would have left Sweden long ago.

In a split decision, one Supreme Court judge argued that the arrest warrant should have been revoked. The majority of the judges ruled that, since the prosecutor had now said she would go to London, Assange's arguments had become "moot." But the court ruled that it would have found against the prosecutor if she had not suddenly changed her mind. Justice by caprice. Writing in the Swedish press, a former Swedish prosecutor, Rolf Hillegren, accused Ny of losing all impartiality. He described her personal investment in the case as "abnormal" and demanded that she be replaced.

Having said she would go to London in June, Ny did not go, but she sent a deputy, knowing that the questioning would not be legal under these circumstances, especially as Sweden had not bothered to get Ecuador's approval for the meeting. At the same time, her office tipped off the Swedish tabloid newspaper *Expressen*, which sent its London correspondent to wait outside Ecuador's embassy for "news." The news was that Ny was cancelling the appointment and blaming Ecuador for the confusion and by implication an "unco-operative" Assange—when the opposite was true.

As the statute of limitations date approaches—August 20—another chapter in this hideous story will doubtlessly unfold, with Marianne Ny pulling yet another rabbit out of her hat and the commissars and prosecutors in Washington the beneficiaries. Perhaps none of this is surprising. In 2008, a war on WikiLeaks and on Julian Assange was foretold in a secret Pentagon document prepared by the "Cyber Counterintelligence Assessments Branch." It described a detailed plan to destroy the feeling of "trust" that is WikiLeaks' "center of gravity." This would be achieved with threats of "exposure [and] criminal prosecution." Silencing and criminalizing such a rare source of truth-telling was the aim, smear the method. While this scandal continues, the very notion of justice is diminished, along with the reputation of Sweden, and the shadow of America's menace touches us all.

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect Fair Observer's editorial policy.

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<http://www.fairobserver.com/region/europe/assange-the-untold-story-of-an-epic-struggle-for-justice-67804/>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IuW1HPdpDyo>

Published on May 28, 2015

<http://democracynow.org> - Five years ago this week, U.S. Army whistleblower Chelsea Manning was arrested

in Kuwait and charged with leaking classified information. Weeks later, WikiLeaks published tens of thousands of internal logs from the war in Afghanistan. It was one of the largest leaks in U.S. military history. Major articles ran in The New York Times, Guardian, Der Spiegel and other outlets. Chelsea Manning, then known as Bradley, and Julian Assange soon became household names. While Manning was sentenced to 35 years in jail, Assange has been living for the past three years inside the Ecuadorean Embassy in London, where he has political asylum. Assange faces investigations in both Sweden and the United States. Here in the United States, a secret grand jury is investigating WikiLeaks for its role in publishing leaked Afghan and Iraq war logs and State Department cables. In Sweden, Assange is wanted for questioning on allegations of sexual misconduct, though no charges have been filed. "Look at Thomas Drake, for example, NSA whistleblower ... The pretrial process was both the deterrent, the general deterrent, and it was the penalty," Assange said. "And the same thing is happening here in the WikiLeaks process, where we have no rights as a defendant because the formal trial hasn't started yet. The same thing has happened with me here in this embassy in relation to the Swedish case: no charges, no trial, no ability to defend yourself, don't even have a right to documents, because you're not even a defendant."

Democracy Now! is an independent global news hour that airs weekdays on 1,300+ TV and radio stations Monday through Friday. Watch our livestream 8-9am ET:

<http://democracynow.org>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IuW1HPdpDyo>

Julian Assange On The Whistleblower Edward Snowden



Published on Jul 10, 2014

In part two of our exclusive interview, Amy Goodman goes inside Ecuador's Embassy in London to speak with Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks. Assange has been living in the embassy for more than two years under political asylum. He faces investigations in both Sweden and the United States, where a secret grand jury is investigating WikiLeaks for its role in publishing a trove of leaked documents about the Iraq and Afghanistan

wars, as well as State Department cables. Assange responds to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's recent comments that National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden should return home to face trial. "It's the advice of all our lawyers that he should not return to the United States. He'd be extremely

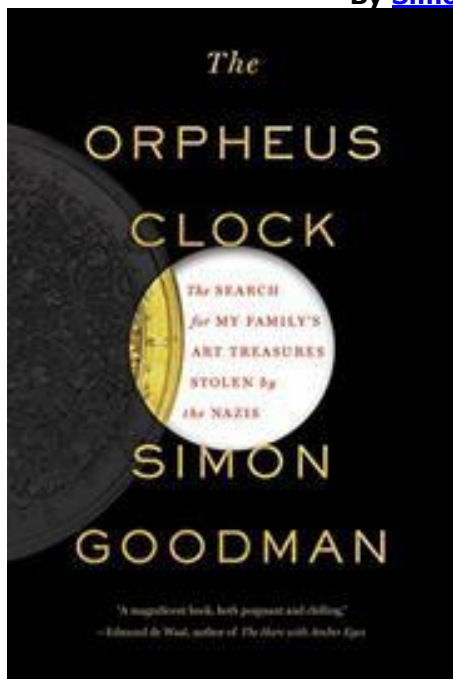
foolish to do so," Assange says. "It's not possible to have a fair trial, because the U.S. government has a precedent of applying state secret privilege to prevent the defense from using material that is classified in their favor."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVMe9bdrau4>

THE ORPHEUS CLOCK

The Search for My Family's Art Treasures Stolen by the Nazis

By [Simon Goodman](#), KIRKUS REVIEW



During World War II, the Nazis easily stole valuable artworks, furniture, and silver from Goodman, who has spent two difficult decades trying to recover them.

The author's German family, who originally spelled the surname "Gutmann," were wealthy bankers beginning in the 19th century. In his affecting debut, Goodman, whose earlier career was in the music industry, traces their history, recording that his great-great-grandfather lived in a Dresden castle. The author spends several

chapters talking about the financial rise of the family, who once employed Joseph Goebbels in a bank branch. Goodman's immediate family moved to the Netherlands and lived outside Amsterdam in an estate called Bosbeek, a place the author recalls as having "an almost magical quality." Then came the Nazis. Goodman rehearses much of the social and military history of the time, tells us about the deaths of relatives in the camps, and describes in excruciating detail how his family lost everything. Going through a box of his late father's belongings, he discovered the story of his father's generally fruitless attempt to recover his family's treasures. Soon, the author and his brother embarked on a long, tempestuous voyage of their own, encountering reluctance, disrespect, doubt, denial, and coldhearted crassness along the way. Throughout the book, Sotheby's does not come off well. Goodman's story is alternately wrenching and inspiring, though the diction is often clichéd: writing is on the wall, people hope for the best, places are hell on earth. These locations often drag this extraordinary story down to the ordinary. Readers will see allusions to many familiar persons and events here: Anne Frank, the Monuments Men, and the works of Degas, Renoir, Botticelli, and numerous other artists. We also learn of some internecine Goodman family squabbles.

An emotional tale of unspeakable horrors, family devotion, and art as a symbol of hope.

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/simon-goodman/the-orpheus-clock/>

The Japanese city falls quiet as it remembers the moment 70 years ago that the Enola Gay dropped a bomb that obliterated tens of thousands of lives

The Japanese prime minister,

Shinzo Abo, vows to introduce a nuclear disarmament proposal to the United Nations.

[Justin McCurry](#) in Hiroshima

Thursday 6 August 2015 11.25 AEST Last modified on Thursday 6 August 2015 13.59 AEST

Hiroshima has marked the 70th anniversary of the moment the city was flattened by an atomic bomb with prayers, a moment's silence, and vows to redouble efforts to halt nuclear proliferation.

On a sweltering day in Hiroshima, tens of thousands of people lowered their heads and stood in silence at 8.15 am, the time the bomb was dropped on 6 August 1945, instantly killing 80,000 people and another 60,000 in the months that followed.

Doves were released into the morning sky and a Buddhist temple bell tolled as people across [Japan](#) marked the anniversary of the first nuclear attack in history.

On Sunday a similar event will be held to remember the second atomic bomb, dropped on Nagasaki. More than 70,00 people died.

Thursday's ceremony was attended by 40,000 people, including representatives of more than 100 countries.

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White Identity, Interests, and Culture

Post-Conviction Relief—A Short Story

August 13, 2015 — [1 Comment](#)

[Kyle Bristow](#)

Jack Schoenherr was a soft-spoken and introverted Michigan attorney who had practiced almost exclusively in the area of criminal defense over the course of his twenty-two year legal career. He swore to uphold and defend the Constitution of the State of Michigan when he was sworn in as a lawyer all those years ago, and he swore to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States every time he sought admission to a federal court.

Prior to attending law school, he had graduated with a degree in philosophy from the University of Michigan, and he had spent much time during his legal career safeguarding the rights of people who had been charged with crimes. As an attorney and as a self-styled "armchair philosopher" who read classical texts of Western civilization as a hobby, Jack knew better than most why due process and ordered liberty are sacrosanct to the human experience, and he was well aware of his oath as an officer of the court.

But now Jack Schoenherr could not care less of his ethical obligations, the law, or his former philosophical musings about the purpose of justice being about the rehabilitation of his clients, because his only child—sixteen-year-old Caroline—was murdered by an eighteen-year-old, tattoo-covered, drug-abusing gangbanger named Tyrone Washington a year-and-a-half ago to the day, and since then, Jack's wife—Claire—had untimely passed away due to heart failure. The doctors had told him at the hospital that his daughter's murder had caused his wife to lose weight and suffer stress to such an extent that it simply broke her heart.

Tyrone had been convicted of first degree murder by a jury just over one month ago after a trial that had lasted three days, and it took the jury all of two hours to convict him for shooting Caroline in cold blood with a stolen revolver for no reason other than that he wanted to show off his "polar bear hunting skills" to prospective candidates eager to join his gang.

The judge had imposed a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, but Tyrone acted in the courtroom like the prosecution of him was a badge of honor. It was on more than one occasion he had grinned, jeered, and laughed as Jack gave his heartfelt and tear-filled victim impact statement. Prior to sentencing, Tyrone's court-appointed attorney delivered a speech that Jack was accustomed to giving for his own clients: "Your Honor, for mitigation prior to sentencing for the crime of [insert name of crime], I would like the Court to know that my client grew up in a dysfunctional home—which was not his fault—, his [insert father/uncle/brother/step-father] often beat him when he grew up—which was not his fault—, he did not thrive with education due to the blight of his community in which he lived—which was not his fault—, he feels really sorry for what he did, he hopes that the Court will let him prove to society that he will rehabilitate while in custody and can become a productive member of society, and we respectfully ask for a reasonable sentence in light of the background of [insert client's name]." The canned speech sickened Jack as he thought of how many times he had delivered it over the course of his legal career.

Jack, driving a 2010 black Ford Focus, drove his vehicle into the parking lot of the Macomb County Jail. "I'm here," he mumbled to himself, as he contemplated who was contained within the facility.

Looking at the rear-view mirror after he had parked his car, Jack observed how much he had aged in recent months: there were pronounced bags under his eyes, his eyes no longer had even a spark of happiness in them but instead appeared sullen and dull, he had gained significant weight, and his hair was starting to turn gray. He had, however, a newly dyed-brown goatee and had dyed his naturally blond hair brown as well.

It was a cold wintry day, which is typical for Michigan during February. The sky was white and hazy and overcast, the wind was blowing calmly from the west, and the snow cracked under Jack's black shoes as he walked towards the main entrance. He looked no different than the other lawyers, sheriff's deputies, and civilians milling about—except for the look of fury contained within his blue eyes, which were now focused forward like laser beams.

"Are you here to visit a client?" the middle-aged, blonde, female sheriff's deputy who stood next to the metal detector in the lobby of the jail asked Jack as he placed his metal pen and yellow notepad in a plastic box to be passed through a scanner. "Yes," Jack answered as he handed her his bar card and a time-stamped court filing. "I entered my appearance for the client with the Court of Appeals yesterday and filed my notice of appeal, too."

The deputy looked at the document. "Tyrone Washington?" she asked rhetorically and not expecting an answer, for the name was clearly printed on the entry of appearance.

"Yes," Jack smiled. "I'm here for post-conviction relief."

"It's good you are here now. He is going to be moved shortly since his trial is over," she said. "Take the elevator to the fifth floor and the guards there will take you to a conference room."

"Thank you," Jack said as he walked toward the elevator after collecting his pen, notepad, bar card, and court filing.

Upon entering the elevator, Jack silently congratulated himself on the plan he had formulated. He wanted the thug who murdered his daughter to die, and he was here to do the deed himself. Although he was once relatively politically progressive and boasted to his prosecutor-friends at bar association functions that he took immense pride in the fact that Michigan was the first English-speaking government in the world to abolish the death penalty for crimes—excluding treason—and never executed a person since becoming a state in 1837, his purpose on Earth now was consumed with meting out the death penalty to one person—nay, man-animal—who called the Macomb County Jail his home.

The plan is brilliant, Jack thought to himself. As an attorney, he had fancied himself a problem-solver for his clients who had serious problems, and now—as one who had a problem—, he utilized his analytical skills to solve his own problem: Tyrone Washington.

"It's hard to break out of jail," Jack laughed to himself as he smiled at the security video camera in the elevator that was taking him up to the fifth floor. "But it is really easy for an attorney to waltz right in."

Upon the chime sounding and the elevator doors screeching open, Jack walked onto the fifth floor and greeted the guard sitting behind a desk. "I'm here to see my client, Tyrone Washington."

"I'll get a conference room for the two of you," the overweight male deputy said.

"Thanks," Jack said. "But if you would, please do see to it that he remains handcuffed. I was warned by his trial attorney that he is a little physical and intimidating."

"Will do," the guard said.

Jack flashed a toothy grin, which was concealed in part by his facial hair.

As the guard summoned a colleague via an intercom to take Tyrone to a conference room, Jack sat down in a nearby chair to gather his thoughts, which quickly drifted to the topic of justice—a subject for which he had written two bar review articles, had lectured about as a guest speaker at multiple venues, and to which he had believed he had committed himself to pursuing over the entirety of his legal career.

"Rehabilitation," Jack shuddered. "What a crock of bull."

Since the murder of his daughter had occurred, Attorney Jack Schoenherr was transformed from being a civil rights-loving liberal into a law-and-order type who would have been well-suited to meting out justice as a judge for Hammurabi in Mesopotamia nearly four millennia ago. Simply said, Jack had a newfound appreciation for retributivist justice.

"Your client is in the third conference room after you go down the hallway and take a right at the first intersection," a newly arrived male deputy said to Jack.

"Thank you," Jack said, as he stood up from the chair.

As he walked down the hallway to the conference room that contained his daughter's killer, Jack thought about his life of yesteryear: *How sick and twisted fate is for him to be here now, for his law-abiding and hard-worked life to come to this. Instead of watching his daughter grow up, his wife and him traveling during their retirement as they had planned, and simply enjoying life, their lives were ruined for the mere thoughtless whim and perverse entertainment of a miscreant.*

As he approached the doorway to the room, a middle-aged male deputy gestured for Jack to enter. Jack's heart skipped a beat and his stomach knotted as he approached, and it appeared as if time has slowed as he did so. A week of methodical planning had come to this.

As Jack entered the windowless, fifteen square foot conference room that had a desk and two chairs, his eyes gazed upon Tyrone Washington, who slouched in the chair furthest away from the door. "You mah appointed lawyer for da' appeal?" Tyrone asked.

"Yes," Jack answered momentarily after being asked the question. *He doesn't recognize my brown hair and goatee.*

"Good," Tyrone said. "Because I gotsa get out of here."

"Deputy, thank you, but I'll need the door closed so as to maintain attorney-client confidentiality," Jack directed to the guard standing near the door. The guard left and closed it.

"I am Attorney Paul Kersey," Jack lied as he took the chair opposite Tyrone.

"Whatever," Tyrone said as he theatrically rattled the handcuffs restraining his hands. "Just gets me outs of here."

Jack, sitting straight up in the chair with an aura of intent about him, pondered his situation as he stared at Tyrone Washington: *Could there not be a more stark contrast between him and me? I worked hard my whole life to go through undergraduate and law school, I worked hard to pay back my student loan debt and to provide for my family, I played by the rules in everything I did, and I never hurt anyone. He, on the other hand, never worked a day in his life, he stopped going to school after the sixth grade, he is a leech on law-abiding people of whom he committed crimes, and he offends everything with which he has dealings. Even the tattoos on his body—especially the "THUG" one on his forehead—constitute a manifestation of his repugnant nature.*

"What's we gonna talk about?" Tyrone asked inquisitively as he continued staring at his handcuffed hands.

"Justice," Jack smiled. "Justice."

"What about it?" Tyrone asked.

"Enough about it that you will have a good grasp of it when we are done here today," Jack said.

Jack stood up and slid his wooden chair into the table as he did so. "Did you know that in the time of Hammurabi, a murderer was always killed upon conviction? Did you know that per Anglo-Saxon common law—even in the United States during the colonial period—, all felonies required the death penalty?"

"Nah," Tyrone exhaled as he slouched further in his chair.

"It is true," Jack replied. "Throughout Western history—well, excluding the last fifty years—, justice required that wrongdoers

be punished and not rehabilitated. Justinian, the Byzantine emperor, opined about seventeen hundred years ago that 'justice is the constant and perpetual wish to render to every man his due.' In Germanic and Nordic countries, blood feuds would develop whereby families would seek revenge against those who murdered their kin—the heirs to a decedent's estate would even inherit the decedent's obligation to kill someone per an existing wrong that must be righted."

Tyrone drooled and snorted as he slouched further in his chair as Jack continued his lecture: "Philosophically, a lot of people are under the impression that the purpose of criminal justice is to rehabilitate offenders, but this is a misconception because if rehabilitation was the goal then a person who does no actual wrong but who is philosophically deviant from the Spirit of the Age could be penalized—which would be offensive to natural law—, while at the same time, if a person does something absolutely monstrous but wakes up the next day after finding Jesus or Mohamad or appearing to appreciate right and wrong and being able to act accordingly, then they could not be subjected to punitive measures—which would be offensive to society and the victims and this would prevent people from guiding their actions by positive law after they recognize the lack of real ramifications for their actions."

Tyrone stared at the ceiling of the conference room, utter boredom palpably afflicting him.

"Retributivism is the only legitimate basis for justice, because through retributivism, good is rewarded with good and bad is punished with bad. This is the purpose of justice, after all—so says Aristotle in his *Nicomachean Ethics*."

Jack doodled a picture with his black ink pen on his notepad of a stick figure being hanged. He crudely x'ed out the eyes with such vigor that the pen striking the paper was heard by Tyrone, who did not take note of what Jack had drawn.

"Immanuel Kant once observed that even if a number of people were on a deserted island, they were planning to go their separate ways the next day never to see each other again, and one person committed murder that evening, it would clearly be an injustice to not punish the murderer—even though the punishment would have no deterrent effect since the people would never see each other again. Deterrence is not the basis for justice, even though it can be a beneficial aspect of it."

Jack summarized things for the one for whom he passed judgment long ago: "Rehabilitation? Not a basis for justice. Deterrence? Not a basis for justice. Retributivism? Now that is justice."

"What's this gotsa do with mah appeal, bro?" Tyrone asked. "I don't wanna to be in dah slammer fo' life, man."

"An appeal?" Jack laughed as he walked around the table at which Tyrone—handcuffed—sat. *My learned thoughts are lost on him.* Gripping his metal pen with the strategically sharpened tip that the deputies did not notice in his fist, Jack quipped, "I'm not here for an appeal. I'm here for my post-conviction relief following your trial."

After Jack acquired the relief the Michigan justice system could not deliver and has not delivered since its statehood, he sat down in the chair across from the slumped over and bloodied body of the convicted murderer who had crudely taken his daughter's life for the thrill of it.

"I rest my case," Jack decreed.

This story earned fifth place out of thirty-one [short stories submitted](#) by Michigan attorneys, which resulted in the story receiving an "Honorable Mention" and a \$300.00 donation being made to the Access to Justice fund, which supports legal aid for the poor—a poverty law center, if you will, that actually does poverty law! More information about the contest can be read online [here](#).

http://www.theoccidentobserver.net/2015/08/post-convictionreliefashortstory/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+theoccidentobserver%2Ffeed+%28The+Occidental+Observer%29

Israeli nuke activist marries Norwegian love

Published: 20 May 2015 23:05 GMT+02:00



Mordechai Vanunu and Kristin Joachimsen at the wedding in Jerusalem. Photo: Facebook

Mordechai Vanunu, the man jailed for 18 years for leaking details of Israel's nuclear weapons program to the British press, has married his long-term Norwegian girlfriend Kristin Joachimsen.

Joachimsen, a newly appointed professor at the School of Theology in Oslo, married the Israeli activist in the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem on Tuesday morning. But the tough restrictions still imposed on the former nuclear technician by the Israeli government mean that he is still barred from leaving the country to live with, or even visit, Joachimsen in her native Norway.

"The restrictions have just been renewed for another year," Joachimsen told Norway's ABCNyheter after the service.

Liv Signe, foreign policy spokesman for Norway's Centre Party said she is considering lobbying foreign minister Børge Brende to pressure Israel to grant the activist an exit visa.

"I think Vanunu ought to come to Norway, and that we should give him a residence permit," she said.

Vanunu in 1986 leaked details of Israel's weapons programme to the UK's Sunday Times newspaper, after which he went into hiding until he was lured to Italy by Mossad agents, drugged and abducted to Israel where he spent 18 years in prison, more than eleven of which took place in solitary confinement. He was released from prison in 2004, although he served further spells of three and six months in 2010 and 2007, for violating the terms of his parole.

Vanunu, born an orthodox Jew, is a devout convert to Christianity, and his first stop after his release was to a nearby Anglican church.

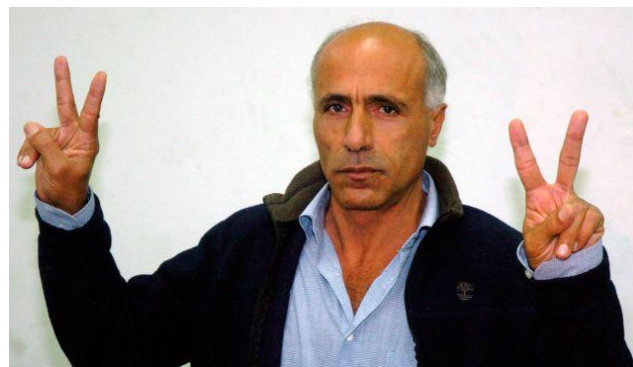
Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg, when she served as Minister of Local Government in 2004, instructed Norway's Foreign Minister to reject Vanunu's appeal for asylum in Norway.

***Mads Gilbert: Israel denies lifelong ban** (17 Nov 14)
***Pro-Israel protest causes tensions in Oslo** (11 Aug 14)
***Israel appoints new Norway ambassador** (31 Jul 14)
***Gaza war is 'grotesque': Norway's ex-PM** (18 Jul 14)
<http://www.thelocal.no/20150520/man-who-israels>

Israeli nuclear whistle-blower can't visit Norwegian bride

Mordechai Vanunu weds Oslo theology professor, but his restrictions will not allow him to leave Israel.

By [Haaretz](#) | May 22, 2015 | 1:34 AM | 1



Nuclear whistle-blower Mordechai Vanunu.

Photo by Moti Kimche

Mordechai Vanunu, the Israeli who spent 18 years in prison for revealing Israel's nuclear secrets, has married his longtime Norwegian partner, Norwegian news site [The Local](#) reported Wednesday.

The two married at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem on Tuesday morning, according to the website. Vanunu converted to Christianity in 1986. His new spouse, Kristin Joachimsen, is a professor at the School of Theology in Oslo.

However, the strict terms of Vanunu's release from jail prevent the former employee of the Nuclear Research Center in Dimona from leaving Israel for any reason.

"The restrictions have just been renewed for another year," Joachimsen told Norway's ABCNyheter after the service.

Vanunu, who revealed classified information about Israel's nuclear program to the U.K.'s Sunday Times newspaper in 1986, could get support from Norway to ease his restrictions.

Liv Signe, the foreign policy spokesperson for Norway's Centre Party, said she may lobby her country's foreign minister, Børge Brende, to press Israel to grant Vanunu an exit visa.

"I think Vanunu ought to come to Norway, and that we should give him a residence permit," she said.

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[Court restricts nuclear whistleblower Vanunu's movement for seventh time](#)

By Revital Hovel | Dec. 30, 2013 | 3:18 AM | 3

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/israel/1.657557>

Neo-Nazi bunker for sale represents dark era in Toronto history: Micallef

Victorian for sale at 206 Carlton St. in Cabbagetown

was home to holocaust denier Ernst Zundel from 1975 to early 2000s.

By: [Shawn Micallef](#), SPECIAL TO THE STAR, Living Columnist, Published on Thu Mar 05 2015

Houses are like people and some have had harder lives than others. Take the 1890 Victorian currently for sale at 206 Carlton St. in Cabbagetown. It's listed for nearly

\$1.7 million and is described as "perfect for buyers who appreciate the character this property offers."



206 Carlton Street, former bunker of Ernst Zundel in the present day. The man and his hate machine may be gone, but some of the fortifications remain of what was called "The Victorian Bunker". If you look hard enough, past the additions, you can still see the handsome below.

<http://realtor.ca/propertyDetails.aspx?PropertyId=15339456> Part of that character, unmentioned in the listing, is that for nearly 25 years it was home to Canada's Neo-Nazi movement

<http://www.gilzohar.ca/articles/canada/c1996-2.html> .

Notorious holocaust denier Ernst Zundel lived here from 1975 until the early 2000s

http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2010/03/01/holocaust_denier_ernst_zundel_released_from_prison.html , operating his Samisdat Press, through which he printed and distributed anti-Semitic material.

Zundel was a graphic artist by trade, and as early as 1978 the city directory had a triple listing at 206 for the Carlton Gallery, Idea Centre, and Zundel Studios. By 1988 the listing was Zundel Studios and The Great Ideas Advertising Centre Inc., and by 2000, Samisdat was listed along with Zundel Ernest (sic) Artist. It is rare now, in the Internet age, to see a hate-monger with a street address, and the house wears some of the collateral damage of his tenure here.

What was once just another grand Victorian along a handsome stretch of Carlton, the house was increasingly fortified, turned into what Zundel and his followers called "The Bunker." It represents a dark era when Neo-Nazism was on the rise in Canada

<http://antiracistcanada.blogspot.ca/2011/10/history-of-violence-1989-2011.html> as well as the violent vigilante response to it.

In 1993 the house was still rather cheery looking, with white brick, red accents, and a gabled roof. A story The Star ran that year described how Zundel had covered his house in plastic in preparation for 200 anti-racist demonstrators rampaging through Toronto's east end who had attacked another white-supremacist's home on

Dundas St. Though a pipe bomb had been sent to the house in 1984, 206 Carlton merely had a standard waist-high fence and a security camera out front at this point. The property's most dramatic changes happened after 1995 when an early morning firebomb was detonated on its porch on May 7 of that year, the 50th anniversary of V-E Day — the day Nazi Germany surrendered — after which a higher fence went up and a blockhouse-like addition was built on the top floor.

As Zundel became more famous, the house itself began to embody traits of the philosophy that was generated within it: fear, isolation, and ugliness. Even after Zundel was deported and the property became divided into rental apartments the defunct remnants of the fortifications lasted for years: a CCTV camera over the door; high-powered lights mounted to the façade, and a conspicuous amount of bars over the windows. The high fence is still there but the gate isn't always clamped shut and without Zundel and his bodyguards in residence, it's just become another ramshackle Toronto house.

Real estate listings are curious bits of creative non-fiction with fish-eye photos taken from weird angles and inflated prose. The listing for 206 only includes pictures of the outside of the home, always the kind of omission that peaks curiosity. It also says that the property only has had three ownerships in its 125 years, though no mention of who they were.

Does a place like this deserve a plaque? Probably. We shouldn't just remember the positive sites around Toronto; to this end Heritage Toronto has been doing good work affixing plaques to the happy and not-so-happy historic spots around the city <http://heritagetoronto.org/programs/plaques-and-markers/>. The people living here now, innocent just as the house itself is, would likely prefer their house not be a memorial to a hateful and violent period in the city's history.

206 Carlton is a story of how something beautiful can become ugly. Today, racism and other evils are often more elusive, underground, and online. Maybe there should be a plaque here to remind us that there is evil out there in Toronto the Good, but also that the city can indeed change for the better.

Shawn Micallef writes every Friday about where and how we live in the GTA. Wander the streets with him on Twitter @shawnmicallef

<http://www.thestar.com/life/2015/03/05/neonazi-bunker-for-sale-represents-dark-era-in-toronto-history-micallef.html>

The Hitler gun control lie

Gun rights activists who cite the dictator as a reason against gun control have their history dangerously wrong

[ALEX SEITZ-WALD](#) ,

SATURDAY, JAN 12, 2013 05:05 AM +1030

This week, people were [shocked](#) when the Drudge Report posted a giant picture of Hitler over a headline speculating that the

White House will proceed with executive orders to limit access to firearms. The proposed orders are [exceedingly tame](#), but

Drudge's reaction is actually a common conservative response to any invocation of gun control.

[The NRA](#), [Fox News](#), [Fox News \(again\)](#), [Alex Jones](#), [email chains](#), [Joe "the Plumber" Wurzelbacher](#), [Gun Owners of America](#), etc., all agree that gun control was critical to Hitler's rise to power. [Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership](#) ("

America's most aggressive defender of firearms ownership") is built almost exclusively around this notion, popularizing [posters](#) of Hitler giving the Nazi salute next to the text: "All in favor of 'gun control' raise your right hand."

In his 1994 book, NRA head Wayne LaPierre dwelled on the Hitler meme at length, writing: "In Germany, Jewish extermination began with the Nazi Weapon Law of 1938, signed by Adolf Hitler."



And it makes a certain amount of intuitive sense: If you're going to impose a brutal authoritarian regime on your populace, better to disarm them first so they can't fight back.

Unfortunately for LaPierre et al., the notion that Hitler confiscated everyone's guns is mostly bogus. And the ancillary claim that Jews could have stopped the Holocaust with more guns doesn't make any sense at all if you think about it for more than a minute.

University of Chicago law professor Bernard Harcourt explored this myth in depth in [a 2004 article published in the Fordham Law Review](#). As it turns out, the Weimar Republic, the German government that immediately preceded Hitler's, actually had *tougher* gun laws than the Nazi regime. After its defeat in World War I, and agreeing to the harsh surrender terms laid out in the Treaty of Versailles, the German legislature in 1919 passed a law that effectively banned all private firearm possession, leading the government to confiscate guns already in circulation. In 1928, the Reichstag relaxed the regulation a bit, but put in place a strict registration regime that required citizens to acquire separate permits to own guns, sell them or carry them.

The 1938 law signed by Hitler that LaPierre mentions in his book basically does the opposite of what he says it did. "The 1938 revisions completely deregulated the acquisition and transfer of rifles and shotguns, as well as ammunition," Harcourt wrote. Meanwhile, many more categories of people, including Nazi party members, were exempted from gun ownership regulations altogether, while the legal age of purchase was lowered from 20 to 18, and permit lengths were extended from one year to three years.

The law *did* prohibit Jews and other persecuted classes from owning guns, but this should not be an indictment of gun control in general. Does the fact that Nazis forced Jews into horrendous ghettos indict urban planning? Should we eliminate all police officers because the Nazis used police officers to oppress and kill the Jews? What about public works — Hitler loved public works projects? Of course not. These are merely implements that can be used for good or ill, much as gun advocates like to argue about guns themselves. If guns don't kill people, then neither does gun control cause genocide (genocidal regimes cause genocide).

Besides, Omer Bartov, a historian at Brown University who studies the Third Reich, notes that the Jews probably wouldn't have had much success fighting back. "Just imagine the Jews of Germany exercising the right to bear arms and fighting the SA, SS and the Wehrmacht. The [Russian] Red Army lost 7 million men fighting the Wehrmacht, despite its tanks and planes and

artillery. The Jews with pistols and shotguns would have done better?" he told Salon.

Proponents of the theory sometimes point to the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising as evidence that, as Fox News' Judge Andrew Napolitano [put it](#), "those able to hold onto their arms and their basic right to self-defense were much more successful in resisting the Nazi genocide." But as the [Tablet's Michael Moynihan points out](#), Napolitano's history (curiously based on a citation of work by French Holocaust denier Robert Faurisson) is a bit off. In reality, only about 20 Germans were killed, while some 13,000 Jews were massacred. The remaining 50,000 who survived were promptly sent off to concentration camps.

Robert Spitzer, a political scientist who studies gun politics and chairs the political science department at SUNY Cortland, told Mother Jones' Gavin Aronsen that the prohibition on Jewish gun ownership was merely a symptom, not the problem itself. "[It] [wasn't the defining moment](#) that marked the beginning of the end for Jewish people in Germany. It was because they were persecuted, were deprived of all of their rights, and they were a minority group," he explained.

Meanwhile, much of the Hitler myth is based on an infamous quote falsely attributed to the Fuhrer, which extols the virtue of gun control:

This year will go down in history! For the first time, a civilized nation has full gun registration! Our streets will be safer, our police more efficient, and the world will follow our lead into the future!

The quote has been widely reproduced in blog posts and opinion columns about gun control, but it's "probably a fraud and was likely never uttered," according to Harcourt. "This quotation, often seen without any date or citation at all, suffers from several credibility problems, the most significant of which is that the date often given [1935] has no correlation with any legislative effort by the Nazis for gun registration, nor would there have been any need for the Nazis to pass such a law, since gun registration laws passed by the Weimar government were already in effect," researchers at the useful website [GunCite note](#).

"As for Stalin," Bartov continued, "the very idea of either gun control or the freedom to bear arms would have been absurd to him. His regime used violence on a vast scale, provided arms to thugs of all descriptions, and stripped not guns but any human image from those it declared to be its enemies. And then, when it needed them, as in WWII, it took millions of men out of the Gulags, trained and armed them and sent them to fight Hitler, only to send back the few survivors into the camps if they uttered any criticism of the regime."

Bartov added that this misreading of history is not only intellectually dishonest, but also dangerous. "I happen to have been a combat soldier and officer in the Israeli Defense Forces and I know what these assault rifles can do," he said in an email.

He continued: "Their assertion that they need these guns to protect themselves from the government — as supposedly the Jews would have done against the Hitler regime — means not only that they are innocent of any knowledge and understanding of the past, but also that they are consciously or not imbued with the type of fascist or Bolshevik thinking that they can turn against a democratically elected government, indeed turn their guns on it, just because they don't like its policies, its ideology, or the color, race and origin of its leaders."



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http://www.salon.com/2013/01/11/stop_talking_about_hitler/